METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A USER INTERFACE

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present application relates generally to a method and apparatus for a user interface.

BACKGROUND

[0002] [Electronic devices such as a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or a mobile phone may generally comprise two portions, a top housing and bottom housing, which are coupled with at least one hinge. A conventional pin hinge may be used to rotatably couple the top and bottom housings of the electronic device. Electronic devices with top and bottom housings connected by at least one conventional hinge may have a closed configuration and an open configuration.

SUMMARY

[0003] Various aspects of examples of the invention are set out in the claims.

[0004] According to a first aspect of the present invention, an apparatus comprises a first body part, a second body part and at least one hinge coupling the first body part with the second body part, the at least one hinge enabling relative rotational movement of the first body part and the second body part with respect to each other between at least one closed configuration and at least one open configuration, the apparatus having a tablet configuration such that the at least one hinge is retractable into at least one of the first body part and the second body part while in the at least one open configuration.

[0005] According to a second aspect of the present invention, an apparatus comprises a first body part having a first user interface, a second body part having a second user interface, at least one hinge coupling the first body part with the second body part, the at least one hinge enabling relative rotational movement of the first body part and the second body part with respect to each other between at least one closed configuration and at least one open configuration, the apparatus having a tablet configuration such that the hinge is retractable into at least one of the first body part and the second body part while in the at least one open configuration, at least one sensor coupled with the apparatus adapted to sense at least one position of the first body part and the second body part with respect to each other and a processor coupled with the at least one sensor configured to receive an indication of the at least one position from the at least one sensor, the processor being capable of displaying a single image on the first user interface and the second user interface when the apparatus is in the tablet configuration.

[0006] According to a third aspect of the present invention, a method, comprising receiving an indication of an apparatus configuration from a at least one sensor, determining whether the apparatus is in a tablet configuration, and displaying a single image on a first user interface and a second user interface of the apparatus when the apparatus is in the tablet configuration.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] For a more complete understanding of example embodiments of the present invention, reference is now made to the following descriptions taken in connection with the accompanying drawings in which:

[0008] FIG. **1** is a diagram of an apparatus shown in a closed configuration according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0009] FIG. **2** is a diagram of the apparatus of FIG. **1** shown in an A configuration according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0010] FIG. **3** is a diagram of the apparatus of FIG. **1** shown in a flat configuration according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0011] FIG. **4** is a diagram of the apparatus of FIG. **1** shown in a tablet configuration according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0012] FIG. **5** is a diagram of the apparatus of FIG. **1** shown in an inverted flat configuration according to an example embodiment of the invention;

[0013] FIG. **6** is a block diagram of an apparatus of FIG. **1** according to an example embodiment of the invention; and

[0014] FIG. **7** is a flow diagram illustrating an example method for displaying images on a first and second user interface according to an example embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] Example embodiments of the present invention and its potential advantages are understood by referring to FIGS. **1** through **7** of the drawings.

[0016] FIG. **1** is a diagram of an apparatus **100** shown in a closed configuration according to an example embodiment of the invention. In an example embodiment, apparatus **100** is an electronic device. In an example embodiment, the electronic device includes but is not limited to a laptop computer, PDA, mobile communications device, GPS (Global Positioning Service) receiver, audio speaker and/or the like. In an embodiment, apparatus **100** comprises a first body part **105** and a second body part **110** coupled with at least one hinge such as hinge **112**. In an example embodiment, the at least one hinge comprises a hinge or hinges of any type including but not limited to a pin hinge and/or the like. In an embodiment, the at least one hinge enables relative rotational movement of first body part **105** and second body part **110** with respect to each other between at least one closed configuration such as the closed configuration depicted in FIG. **1** and at least one open configuration. Example open configurations of apparatus **100** will be described infra. In an example embodiment, the at least one hinge allows 360 degree rotational movement of first body part **105** and second body part **110** with respect to each other. In an example embodiment, apparatus **100** is biasable in at least one closed configuration, such as the closed configuration depicted in FIG. **1**. For example, apparatus **100** may be biased in at least one closed configuration using magnetic material.

[0017] In an example embodiment, apparatus **100** comprises a first hinge carrier **115** coupling first body part **105** and the at least one hinge such as hinge **112**. In an example embodiment, apparatus **100** comprises a second hinge carrier **117** coupling second body part **110** and the at least one hinge such as hinge **112**.

[0018] In an example embodiment, a first user interface **120** is disposed on a first surface **121** of first body part **105**. In an example embodiment, first user interface **120** comprises at least one display and/or at least one touch sensitive surface and/or the like.